

Michael F. Easley
Governor

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William G. Ross Jr.
Secretary, DENR

FAREWELL HUG FOR 'MISS JUDY'

By CHARLIE PEEK
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

RALEIGH – There was a perfectly good reason people from the parks system filled a meeting hall to capacity Nov. 10 for the retirement dinner of Judy Warren, the division's personnel officer.

Scott Daughtry, the south district superintendent, expressed that reason:

"We love you, Judy Warren, because you love each and every one of us and we know it. And, we have always known it."

Warren retired Nov. 1 after serving 37 years with the NC Division of Parks and Recreation, having joined in 1964 as an office assistant. She became the third senior official



DIVISION DIRECTOR MCKNELLY BEGAN A SERIES OF HEARTFELT PRESENTATIONS FOR JUDY WARREN, THE RETIRING PERSONNEL DIRECTOR.

to retire from the division in a year following Tom Wells, superintendent of state parks, and Robert Skinner, the administrative officer.

Warren's plans are to relax in her hometown of Meadow in Johnston County and further

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HAMMOCKS BEACH CENTER DEDICATED

Park Superintendent Sam Bland's vision for the new visitor's center at Hammocks Beach State Park is at least as grand as the design.

"It is within the walls of this building that we hope to inform, enlighten and arouse the curiosity of children and adults; and that we can foster appreciation, respect and stewardship for all the wild things and wild places of not only

coastal North Carolina but for all the wild things and wild places of this earth," Bland told about 80 people who came to a dedication ceremony there Nov. 14.

Bland said the building is about barrier islands and sea turtles, falcons, eagles, Native Americans, pirates and friendship between a white man

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UP CLOSE & 'PERSONNEL'

Between the stuffed skunk in the corner of his office, the chipmunks and squirrels scattered throughout, and the whopping 10 pound, 4 ounce bass hanging on the wall, there's no mistaking that *Ron Bowling* enjoys the outdoors. The nine-year park ranger is the division's new safety officer.

Bowling worked 18 years in various industrial positions with General Electric before

changing his career and joining the parks system. He worked toward his degree in parks and forestry while a seasonal at Jordan Lake State Recreation Area. Bowling became a ranger at William B. Umstead State Park in 1995 and worked there for four years. He then became a Ranger III at Falls Lake State Recreation Area where he has been for the last three years. Bowling is the only trained peer support counselor in our division,

certified to help staff recover after traumatic incidents.

"I've enjoyed what I did as a park ranger so much that I wanted to do more," Bowling said. "I know that sounds a little corny, but this job is one that grows on you."

Bowling began his new role as safety officer Nov. 1 and still wears the gray and green. He will be responsible for overseeing the safety program for state parks, which includes park inspections for hazards and ensuring that federal and state safety laws are met.

"I look forward to being able to make a difference not just in one park but hopefully throughout the system," he said. "I want to work with all parks and with all safety officers to do whatever we need to do to achieve the safety of our park staff and visitors."

"We're very excited and pleased to have him in this position," said Tom Jackson, chief park ranger. "He brings to the position a valuable combination of both park experience and safety experience."

* * * * *

Lori Fleming, an eight-year park ranger with the division, has taken the position of interpretation and education specialist for the north district.

"Interpretation and environmental education was one of the aspects of the many park ranger duties that I liked the most," Fleming said.

Fleming earned a degree in parks, recreation and tourism management from North Carolina State University. While a student, she worked as a seasonal at Crowders Mountain State Park for two summers. After graduation, Fleming became a ranger at

From The Director's Desk

Dear Fellow Employees:

As you are all well aware, this division has lost a number of leaders during the past year or so. Well, we have now lost another prominent member of our family to retirement – Judy Warren. After thirty-seven years of making the daily trip from Meadow to Raleigh, she decided she had enjoyed enough. I have talked to Judy a time or two since her retirement Oct. 31 and each time she has mentioned how much she appreciated her retirement dinner and how much fun it was. Thanks to everyone who worked to make the night so enjoyable for Judy and to those who traveled across the state to help Judy celebrate her career with us.

While the past year or two have been tough on the division in terms of losing folks who have had outstanding careers, we have recently had an opportunity to welcome a couple of new members to our family. Actually, one is a former employee who lost her way, realized the error of her ways, and has now come home. I am pleased to welcome Terah Councilman back to the division as our budget officer. Since Terah left the division in the late 1980's, she has consistently worked her way through a progression of budget related positions and is now extremely well qualified to return to the division and assume this very important leadership role.

Teresa McCall will join the division staff Dec. 17 as our new personnel officer. Teresa has served in similar positions in the Division of Environmental Management and Division of Air Quality for a number of years. During her career with those agencies, she gained valuable experience in virtually every aspect of personnel management. While Teresa will have a great deal to learn about the division, its programs and staff, I'm sure you will find her a to be enthusiastic and supportive as you work with her to address any personnel issues you may encounter.

While you always miss those folks who have been such a large part of our lives for so long, I feel very good about the future of the division with folks like Terah and Teresa stepping in to pick up the reins and begin moving forward again. I'm sure you will all join me in welcoming them to the division family.

I hope you and your loved ones have a happy holiday season!

Sincerely,

Phil

Philip K. McKnelly

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COUNCILMAN TAKES FINANCIAL REINS

Once you've worked with the NC Division of Parks and Recreation, it's hard to stay away. Terah Councilman, the division's new administrative officer, is living proof.

Councilman began her career in state government as a receptionist with the division in 1985. She left in 1989 to work as an accounting clerk in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Division of Budget, Planning and Analysis. Now, almost 13 years later, she's back.

Councilman takes the job vacated by Robert Skinner who retired early this year after 33 years with the division.

"Ever since I worked in parks, it had a special place with me," she said. "Now it's sort of like I'm coming home."

In the interim, Councilman climbed the ranks of the department's financial branch. From accounting clerk, she ad-



vanced to budget officer of DENR's Information Technology Services Division. Seven years ago, she returned to the department's budget office serving as DENR salary reserve analyst for the last five years.

Councilman said the parks division has undergone major funding improvements since she left. One improvement came in 1994 when the NC General Assembly established the

Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, a major contributor to the parks system. But, the heart of the division remained the same, and that's part of what attracted Councilman to the position.

"Preservation of our natural resources is real important to me," Councilman said. "I love getting out in the parks and getting out into nature."

Councilman said two of her goals as administrative officer are to incorporate technology into division's budgeting system and to streamline some budgeting processes.

Councilman is a native North Carolinian who lives in Broadway with her husband and 13-year-old son.

"I am extremely pleased that we are now able to welcome her back," said division director Phil McKnelly in an email to staff. He added that Councilman is "uniquely qualified" for the position.

'PERSONNEL'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Eno River State Park, where she worked for seven years. She then worked at Medoc Mountain State Park for nearly a year.

Fleming was one of the first rangers in the division to earn environmental education certification.

"She did this before it was required, of her own volition," said Marti Kane, lead interpretation and education specialist. "I think that speaks loudly as to the kind of dedication she brings."

Fleming also was chosen to serve as vice president of the division's newly formed interpretation and education council, a group that advises the division.

* * * * *

After nearly two years in

the piedmont trails specialist position, *Ann Coughlin* has moved to the coast, replacing Tom Potter as the coastal trails specialist in the division's trails program.

"I'm a beach bum," Coughlin said. "I've always been interested in the coast since I was a kid. And, water quality issues concerned me while I was in the piedmont. It all ends up going into the ocean."

Coughlin's duties include helping manage the division's two trails grant programs, consulting with various municipalities on trails issues and working with citizens groups to build trails or plan paddle trails. Coughlin said that she expects water qual-

ity, land use, ecotourism, and quality of life to be the primary issues on coastal municipalities' minds.

She also said that one of her main goals is extending the eastern portion of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, a trail that will traverse the entire state, once completed.

"She has done a great job in the piedmont and has a great interest in the coastal area and in coastal issues," said Darrell McBane, head of the trails program. "She looks forward to working with numerous groups and agencies involved in planning, developing and managing trails, greenways and blueways."

PROJECT AIMS TO RESTORE STREAMBANK

JEFFERSON – A novel project to restore eroded riverbanks and improve habitat in the New River was completed in September at New River State Park.

The effort involved arranging natural, in-stream structures to divert river current away from 2,500 feet of sensitive riverbank at two locations, and the use of bioengineering to stabilize those areas and reduce sedimentation in the river, said Park Superintendent Jay Wild.

“The project was necessary because land is being lost to the river,” Wild said. “Banks had become unsafe and a great deal of sediment was washing into the New River, damaging aquatic habitat. The state park has lost about 20 feet of riverbank in several areas in the last 15 years.”

The Division of Parks and Recreation directed the project using a \$148,000 grant from the NC Division of Water Resources and a \$10,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The grants were secured by the nonprofit New River Community Partners.

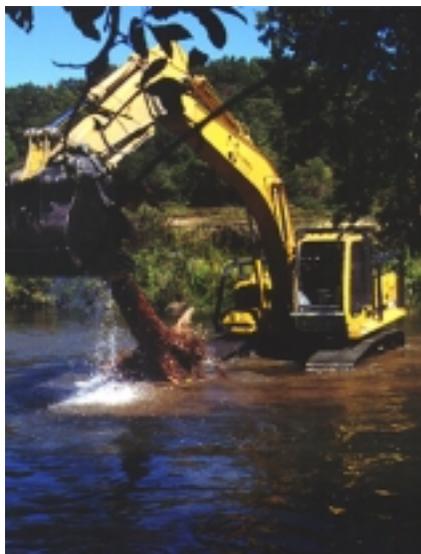
The foundation grant will be used for education about the project including a series of workshops on streambank stabilization for area property owners. A workshop was conducted in November by New River Community Partners.

Contractor for the restoration project was Shamrock Construction of Greensboro, with Buck Engineering of Cary providing design and permitting and construction management.



A TRACKHOE IS USED TO BUILD A ROCK WEIR AT NEW RIVER STATE PARK.

The initial stage targeted about 1,500 linear feet of riverbank at the park’s Wagoner Road Access. Clusters of boulders and rootwads were used to armor banks that have been seriously undercut by current. Rootwads are stumps driven into the bank at an angle with roots left projecting into the waterway. Also, log and rock vanes were placed in the river to redirect current. Vanes are natural low barriers placed



A ROOTWAD IS MOVED INTO PLACE.

completely in a waterway or set at an angle from the bank.

The second phase involved 1,000 feet of riverbank just downstream of the confluence of the North and South forks of the river. At that site, a large point bar was once mined for sand and the area was never reclaimed. As a result, the river was digging away at the back of the point bar and threatened to create an unstable island.

A natural bedrock vane exists at the upstream end of the point bar. Gaps in that vane were filled to slow water velocity and prompt natural sediment to work as fill material.

The next step is bioengineered restoration of the riverbank – the structural use of plant materials to reinforce and stabilize the banks and provide wildlife habitat. Naturally occurring grasses and woody plants will be established as a buffer along severely eroded sections, and where possible, non-native, invasive species will be removed.

develop her interest in gardening.

During her tenure, “Miss Judy” made sure there was a hug, a smile and a kind word for anyone in the division who seemed to need it. At the same time, she saw the human resources demands of the division increase exponentially with the advent of new hiring practices, more complex regulations and a dramatic increase in staff positions and seasonal workers. She was instrumental in forming the division’s popular awards program.

Lewis Ledford, superintendent of state parks, estimated that Warren presented more than 1,000 awards to employees for service and for exemplary work during her career. And, she always approached her job with her principal motive being “what the division needs,” he said.

Wells added that Warren was indispensable when staff needed to navigate complex personnel rules. “There’s not a person in this room that Judy Warren hasn’t assisted in a perfectly professional and gracious manner.”

Division Director Phil McKnelly said that Warren gradually became an “informal leader” of the parks system beyond her formal duties and, “many times, when asked for her opinion, didn’t whitewash it with what she thought you wanted to hear.”

Warren received several gifts of appreciation including a set of garden furniture, a watch and a framed print of Jockey’s Ridge State Park.

During the park system’s superintendent’s conference in September, she was honored with a framed collection of photos of all the superintendents. At both events, long lines of employees formed to give her farewell hugs.

Warren left a bit of wisdom for the people in the parks system. “You know, it’s the division’s mission to take care of our natural resources,” she said. “One of our most precious resources is our staff.”



WARREN VISITS WITH GUESTS BEFORE THE CEREMONIES BEGIN.



LANCE WHITE PROCLAIMS THAT 'IT'LL BE FOREIGN WITHOUT JUDY WARREN.'



SHOWING OFF A WATCH PRESENTED BY HER HUMAN RESOURCES STAFF.



THERE WAS LAUGHTER AND TEARS, OFTEN AT THE SAME TIME.

HAMMOCKS BEACH

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and a black man.

The 7,500-square-foot visitor's center was also about five years in the making. The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund set aside money for the project in 1996. It is among park improvements totalling about \$3.2 million including a covered waiting station for ferry passengers, picnic shelter, dock, entry road and parking.

William G. Ross Jr., secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, was keynote speaker at the dedication.

Ross said it's evident that North Carolina's trust funds that provide for land acquisition and park improvements "are the engines that are driving our ability to allow Onslow County and other counties in North Carolina to have facilities such as this."

Ross said that division leadership – both present and in the past – has allowed the parks



ROSS TOURS BEAR ISLAND WITH PARK RANGERS.

system to take best advantage of the benefits of those trust funds.

The ceremony also included remarks by Annette Hargett of the Governor's Eastern Office, David Pearson, president of the Friends of the Hammocks and Bear Island and Phil McKnelly, director of the Division of Parks and Recreation.

Following the ceremony and a lunch provided by the friends group and local businesses, Ross toured Bear Island and was taken on a short kayaking outing by division staff.

The project at Hammocks Beach is the latest in a program to equip state parks with modern visitor's centers and exhibit halls.

The center is of steel and wood construction and has a wraparound porch, a small amphitheater for meetings and education programs and space for a future exhibit hall. It was designed by Burnette Architecture and Planning of Pine Knoll Shores.

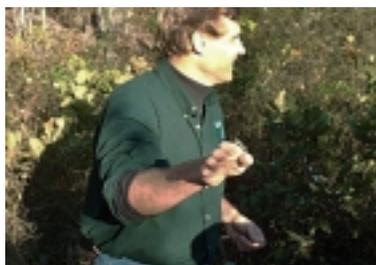
The contractor was Pro Construction of Jacksonville and construction of the building was completed in about 13 months.



SUPERINTENDENT SAM BLAND WELCOMES ABOUT 80 VISITORS TO THE HAMMOCKS BEACH DEDICATION.

SKILLS II TRAINING

SKILLS II TRAINING WAS HELD OCT. 7 AT WILLIAM B. UMSTEAD STATE PARK. AT RIGHT, MARK JOHNS OF THE WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION DISCUSSES 'FALL PLANT FAST FACTS.' BELOW, THE DIVISION'S TOM HOWARD LEADS A 'TAKE A HIKE' CLASS.



Division of Parks and Recreation Monthly Attendance Report

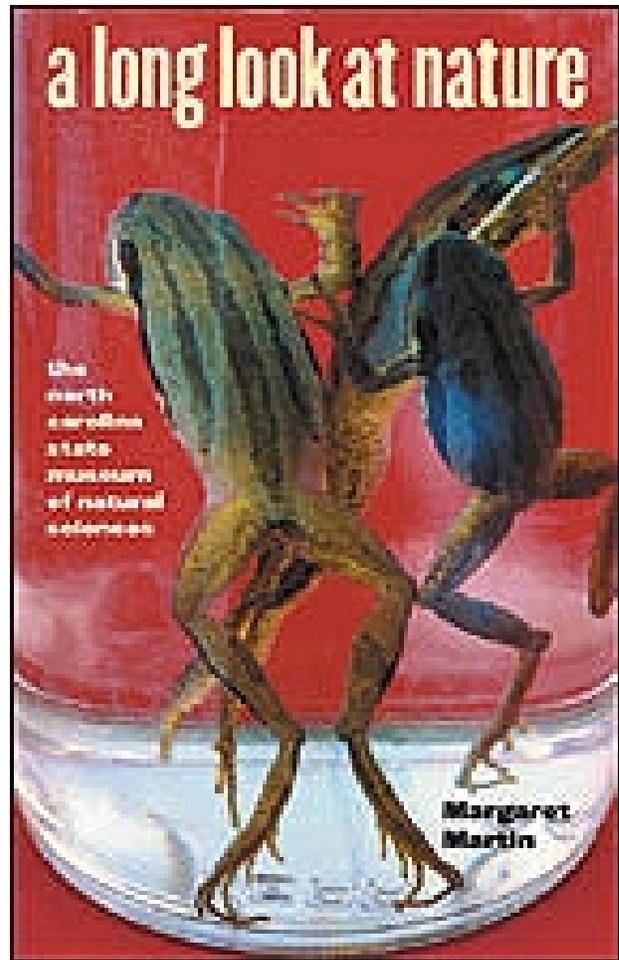
DISTRICT/PARK					% CHANGE	
	OCTOBER	TOTAL YTD.	OCTOBER	TOTAL YTD	(2000/2001)	
	2001	OCT. 2001	2000	OCT. 2000	OCT.	YTD
EAST DISTRICT						
Cliffs of the Neuse	11,027	121,438	7,244	114,333	52%	6%
Fort Macon	93,878	1,154,566	95,792	1,178,246	-2%	-2%
Goose Creek	9,053	100,631	7,931	106,589	14%	-6%
Hammocks Beach	16,653	177,691	12,276	169,902	36%	5%
Jockey's Ridge	63,925	930,709	69,768	986,758	-8%	-6%
Merchants Millpond	7,494	74,555	8,407	77,262	-11%	-4%
Pettigrew	5,858	80,250	5,149	69,518	14%	15%
SUBTOTAL	207,888	2,639,840	206,567	2,702,608	1%	-2%
NORTH DISTRICT						
Eno River	26,989	278,208	26,915	242,625	0%	15%
Occoneechee Mountain	2,922	31,009	3,300	25,596	-11%	21%
Falls Lake	63,125	1,090,078	47,943	680,513	32%	60%
Hanging Rock	41,276	370,448	46,839	373,999	-12%	-1%
Kerr Lake	92,780	1,685,328	90,432	1,374,960	3%	23%
Medoc Mountain	7,232	61,951	7,944	69,658	-9%	-11%
Pilot Mountain	55,694	379,276	63,199	344,158	-12%	10%
William B. Umstead	35,559	342,562	38,327	357,251	-7%	-4%
SUBTOTAL	325,577	4,238,860	324,899	3,468,760	0%	22%
SOUTH DISTRICT						
Boones Cave	4,650	28,718	4,696	30,599	-1%	-6%
Carolina Beach	21,589	231,160	19,712	205,258	10%	13%
Fort Fisher	58,880	599,660	32,655	476,261	80%	26%
Jones Lake	5,988	108,098	7,342	104,070	-18%	4%
Jordan Lake	65,088	1,144,848	70,872	1,138,484	-8%	1%
Lake Waccamaw	6,120	87,442	7,352	62,163	-17%	41%
Lumber River	5,215	45,281	4,322	36,707	21%	23%
Morrow Mountain	46,660	450,200	54,180	350,380	-14%	28%
Raven Rock	10,323	103,838	11,980	99,960	-14%	4%
Singletary Lake	1,444	17,782	2,268	14,659	-36%	21%
Weymouth Woods	2,891	22,795	2,229	23,145	30%	-2%
SUBTOTAL	228,848	2,839,822	217,608	2,541,686	5%	12%
WEST DISTRICT						
Crowder's Mountain	33,379	252,627	34,065	271,344	-2%	-7%
Gorges	8,291	87,614	5,484	81,898	51%	7%
Lake James	9,913	225,067	9,169	211,790	8%	6%
Lake Norman	24,474	228,558	14,176	224,783	73%	2%
Mount Jefferson	11,861	82,289	14,075	83,625	-16%	-2%
Mount Mitchell	111,026	510,719	129,065	539,775	-14%	-5%
New River	11,792	119,572	13,732	122,535	-14%	-2%
South Mountains	15,738	165,572	19,000	143,116	-17%	16%
Stone Mountain	65,068	453,262	79,496	621,014	-18%	-27%
SUBTOTAL	291,542	2,125,280	318,262	2,299,880	-8%	-8%
SYSTEMWIDE TOTAL	1,073,643	11,843,802	1,067,336	11,012,934	1%	8%

MUSEUM BOOK TAKES LONG VIEW

A book exploring the role of the NC Museum of Natural Sciences as a public interpreter of the state's natural world was released in November. The book, *A Long Look at Nature*, was written by Margaret H. Martin, the museum's director of communications.

The NC Museum of Natural Sciences was founded more than 120 years ago to serve as a keeper of natural history collections, a resource for the scientific community and a public interpreter of the state's natural world. The book is organized around the museum's collections, from rocks and minerals to reptiles and amphibians. "A Long Look at Nature" examines how these collections have been interpreted over time, tracing the shift away from a 19th-century presentation of nature as something ripe for exploitation to a more contemporary view of natural communities as complex and interconnected, deserving of conservation.

A Long Look at Nature is 170 pages and contains 165 photographs, many of them by renowned natural history photographer Rosamond Purcell. The paperback book, published by UNC Press is available for \$19.95 at the museum's store.



DON'T FORGET!

ANYONE IN THE DIVISION IS INVITED TO SUBMIT STORIES OR PHOTOS TO *THE STEWARD*.

Mission

The mission of the North Carolina Division of Parks & Recreation is:



- to protect North Carolina's natural diversity;
- to provide and promote outdoor recreation opportunities throughout North Carolina;
- and
- to exemplify and encourage good stewardship of North Carolina's natural resources

for all citizens and visitors of North Carolina.

The Steward

Division of Parks and Recreation — Public Information Office
1615 MSC — Raleigh, NC 27699-1615